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September 22, 2017

Eric Hedge
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: Oak Woodland Management Exemption, 2017

Dear Eric:

I am writing to thank you and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for the developing draft Oak Woodland Management Exemption, 2017. I continue to hear tremendous landowner enthusiasm and appreciation for this developing exemption and the recently approved oak special prescription. This exemption is critical because it not only clarifies that oak restoration is not a conversion, but it also incentivizes the work by providing a ministerial permitting pathway for landowners to complete restoration activities that allows for a limited amount of commercial return from these activities. Having both options in the rules will help landowners achieve their management goals and facilitate deciduous oak habitat conservation.

As soon as this exemption is finalized I plan to provide several educational opportunities for foresters and landowners to learn more about these new regulatory tools.

I appreciate all that you and the Board are doing for deciduous oak woodlands. If our research can answer any of your questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Yana Valachovic, RPF #2740
Forest Advisor and County Director